



EAST WEST INTERKNIT™

OH GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD FOR HE IS GOOD!

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel..." Philippians 1:3-5a (NIV)

May 2016

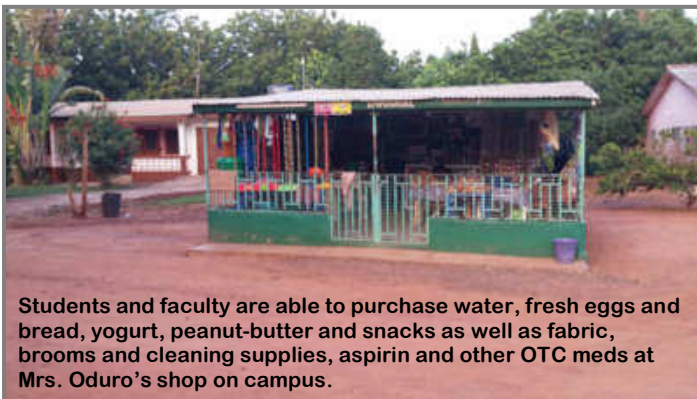
UPDATE ON APRIL 21 - MAY 5 TRIP TO GOOD NEWS THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE AND SEMINARY IN ACCRA, GHANA

Dear Friends,

We want to express our thanks to those who prayed for us. We went through immigration and departure without incident, we remained healthy and had the strength to do the work, we were provided with all that we needed during our stay, and we thoroughly enjoyed the fellowship and kindness of all at Good News.

Annette Jones and Carla Urban

We arrived safely in Accra, Ghana just before 8:00 AM on Friday April 22, after about 17 hours in transit, tired but ready to meet old and new friends at the seminary. With over 300 people on our flight clearing immigration and retrieving our luggage took a while but we got through without difficulty and were met by Dr. Oduro. It was nearly noon when we arrived at the campus. After taking some time to settle in at the guest house and enjoying a quick lunch provided by the caterer, it was time to meet with Dr. Oduro, several faculty members, the library staff, the visiting professors, and Mrs. Oduro at her shop on campus.



Students and faculty are able to purchase water, fresh eggs and bread, yogurt, peanut-butter and snacks as well as fabric, brooms and cleaning supplies, aspirin and other OTC meds at Mrs. Oduro's shop on campus.



Rev. Dr. Thomas Oduro, President of GNTCS, in his new office.

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GNTCS Trip Report (Continued from page 1)

Our work began in earnest on Saturday, April 23rd. The Librarian made a special effort to be there so we would not have to wait until Monday to get started. This gave us time to assess needs, get acquainted and determine what they would most like to have done during our stay.

The Good News library now houses over 28,000 volumes of which 15,700 were sent to them by EWI [a big thank you to our donors]. It is said to be one of the best collections in any institution in Accra for theological studies. The library contains resources which provide vital support to the students in their studies. However, it lacked a way for users to find needed material easily. With neither a card catalog nor an online catalog available to them they were obliged to search the stacks hoping to locate appropriate books. Faculty members we met commented on more than one occasion that they wished they had been able to find certain books in support of their courses.

EWI provided the library with an online cataloging system that should greatly speed the cataloging process and will provide a way to locate books by author, title or subject. Carla began by familiarizing herself with the system and then cataloging the piles of books waiting for processing. Once this was done, she began teaching the system to the Librarian and his assistant. Carla completed detailed instructions for the use of the system and gave them to the Librarian. She personally catalogued more than 600 books. She also worked with a number of students to ensure that they understood how to shelve books correctly, and she encouraged the Librarian to continue that training.



GNTCS Librarian Kwesi Gyesei with some of the latest EWI shipment

Forty-six boxes of books shipped by EWI arrived at the library on day three of our visit. These included several hundred Bibles which we were privileged to hand out to students and faculty at a special reception.

By the end of our stay about two-thirds of the shelves had been put in order, the call numbers made legible, and multiple copies for withdrawal identified. We met with the head of the Library Committee and made recommendations and provided some funding to allow for the purchase of

needed equipment. We also left behind a supply of library materials including labels, label protectors, book repair material and other items that we purchased with funds provided by a generous donor.



The newly organized north wing of the library

The campus has been given a solar wind turbine that produces enough power to keep one computer on and ceiling fans working when the electricity is cut. It is, however, not sufficient to continue to run the library air-conditioners. The power went off one evening about half past seven and when it came back on about three the next afternoon a cheer went up from the students all across the campus! With high humidity and temperatures near 90 degrees Fahrenheit, we also gave a little cheer. We had additional outages on three other days but were able to continue the work.

Our time there was not all work and no play. Carla went on a number of long walks early in the morning with the Reichenbachs, visiting professors from St. Paul. This provided an opportunity to learn a little about the community and the life style of the people. We attended the student chapel service on a number of occasions and shared in the joy of their worship expressed in both song and dance. A special service was held on our last full day on campus followed by a luncheon for all and a visit to the restored women's dorm. They were most gracious in showing appreciation for help received and showered us with gifts and other expressions of love. We also spent one day touring the countryside, a wildlife preserve, an art and culture market and enjoyed a drive along the seaside.

Another highlight was the opportunity to meet and learn about the ministries of several individuals who are now in effective ministries because of the training they received at GNTCS. We learned of one who came from a pagan background. He knew nothing about the Bible but someone advised him to go to school. He drove around and spotted the campus, visited, and decided to attend. He came to faith, completed his course, and is now serving as a pastor and working as a policeman in order to support his family. We met with another who returned to his native Liberia and now leads an active mission-minded church of 2,000.

We have much to share that would not fit within the space constraints of this newsletter. If you see one of us in person and have time to hear more, either of us would happily share about our experience at Good News. You need only ask!

Annette Jones and Carla Urban

Jehovah Shammah Children's Home and Ministries (JSCH)

Work Continues in Spite of Adverse Conditions

Many of the children living at Jehovah Shammah Children's Home return to home villages during the school break between early April and mid-June when the new school year begins. The administrator is looking ahead to determine how they can meet the daily needs of all of the children and also find the resources needed to send them back to school. JSCH must provide uniforms, school fees, books and supplies for at least 30 children. They will also provide partial support for two girls who passed their public exams with high marks, 'graduated' from the home, and are now going for further studies in a nearby town.

We have learned that India is experiencing the worst drought in over four decades due to the failure of the rains during the last rainy season. There is severe water shortage throughout the land including in the area of the children's home. There have been many heat related deaths and great loss of crops and livestock. Wells and reservoirs have dried up and people often have to wait days for water to be delivered. The annual monsoon rains are not expected in this region until the middle of June. They ask that we pray for the people of India.

In spite of the heat, the evangelists continue to go to the surrounding villages to hold gospel meetings and to conduct street preaching. They report that many have become believers and some have been baptized in recent days.



Pastor Kumar distributing saris to village women



Pastor Raju baptizing a new believer

BOOKS FOR BIBLE COLLEGES AND SEMINARIES

Resources to aid in training Christian workers

Chennai, India—JMBC was launched in 1987 with just eight students. Today there are 332 graduates working throughout India and neighboring countries, 95% of whom are serving as missionaries, evangelists, pastors, and Christian workers. They ask for prayer for them, many of whom are facing opposition and outright persecution. They also request prayer for the placement of the new graduates, who represent many regions of India and expect to serve as evangelists and church planters as well as children and youth ministers.

Accra, Ghana: **Glorious Harvest Ministries** was begun by Joshua and Deborah Tay in 2004 as a church plant with eight members. By 2010 the church had grown and they became aware of the need to train and equip laborers for the harvest. The Glorious Harvest Ministerial College in Accra provides training for 12 persons at a time due to limitations of space. The students currently enrolled will be completing their course soon and will be sent out to begin their work as church planters.

They have asked us to assist by providing a library to aid them in preparing pastors and missionaries fully equipped for the task. They need Bible dictionaries and commentaries, in addition to books on theology, doctrine, apologetics, leadership, counseling, and many other subjects too numerous to mention. They have specifically asked for all kinds of material on missions and church planting. In a recent correspondence regarding books received from EWI, Rev. Tay stated that they were relieved and thankful to God for the shipment and said that, "These books have helped the school much in our tutorials on theological and practical ministry trainings."

SPECIAL CHILDREN'S EVENTS HELD IN SOUTH CENTRAL INDIA

- "We had seven days of 'Children's Gospel Club' for the children between age 5 and 14, from different walks of life and different faiths. It is quite interesting to see the Lord bringing the children from different communities who are not Christians or Church goers.
- We had 400 children each day in two centers here in [location withheld for security reasons]. The Lord blessed us to bless each child with a special gift and to buy them snacks each day as they came to be trained in the Word of the Lord and in worshipping the Lord.
- We had twenty volunteers who taught the Word for those children. In all of our churches we have this program presently going and we are giving special attention to the children. We are thankful to the Lord that we could sow seeds in their little hearts who do not know Jesus Christ, we believe that as days go by in the long run they will grow and will be saved as the Word of the Lord would minister to them and they will be redeemed in their soul.
- Please pray that God will bless our efforts as we carry forth the Gospel to the young and the old alike reaching the unreached in this part of the world."



This EWI partner mission cares for up to 100 children at three children's homes supported in part by three of the mission churches in the area. They are in a region characterized by significant unemployment making it a challenge to meet all of the children's needs. EWI makes an effort to help particularly in the fall and Christmas season and in the early summer when the children return for the new school year. They must cover school fees, uniforms and shoes, school books, back packs, and all other school supplies.

CURRENT PRAISE AND PRAYER CONCERNS

- **Praise** the Lord with us for a safe and successful time in Ghana;
- **Praise** for the great attendance at the children's programs in South Central India;
- **Please pray** for those suffering in the heat and drought in India;
- **Please pray** for those facing exams at some of the Bible colleges and seminaries and at the mission schools in Haiti;
- **Please pray** for Kevin, a seven year old living with an AIDS afflicted abusive alcoholic grandmother in the village in Kenya and for Julian as she seeks ways of protecting him.

SPECIAL NEED

We are collecting unexpired over-the-counter medicines to be sent to the Haiti clinic including cold and fever reducers, anti-diarrheal tablets, antacids, pain relievers, and folic acid, along with exam gloves, sterile gauze, suture thread and other non-liquid medicines and materials.

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East West InterKnit
P.O. Box 270333
St. Paul, MN 55127

Phone: 651- 765-2550

Email: Info@ew-interknit.org

Director: **Annette L. Jones**

web: <http://ew-interknit.org>

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